

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of forming a synthetic material, comprising:
providing a base material for of one or more components, the base material being an expandable epoxy material that is tacky at a temperature between about 0 °C and about 80 °C; and

covering a surface of the base material with a film being adhered thereto for providing at least one substantially non-tacky surface to the base material to form the synthetic material with the at least one substantially non-tacky surface and at least one tacky surface, wherein the film includes an epoxy resin and an epoxy-elastomer adduct in an amount of up to about 30 % by weight of the film; and the film is substantially tack-free at a temperature below about 80 °C; and becomes adherent at an elevated temperature such that the film adheres to a surface that it comes in contact with; and at least the base material is heat activated and expands.

Claims 2-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (original): A method as in claim 3 wherein the film includes one or more correspondence components corresponding to the one or more components of the base material.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method as in claim 7 wherein the one or more correspondence components of the coating film include at least one epoxy resin material.

Claim 10-22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A method as in claim 7 wherein at least a portion of the one or more correspondence components are thermoplastics.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A method as in claim 7 wherein at least a portion of the one or more correspondence components are elastomers.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A method as in claim 7 wherein the one or more correspondence components comprise at least about 60% by weight of the film.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A method as in claim 9 wherein the one or more correspondence components comprise at least about 60% by weight of the film.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A method as in claim 9 wherein the film includes between about 5% and about 50% by weight epoxy resin and the epoxy resin has an EEW between about 200 and about 300 and wherein the epoxy resin represents at least a portion of the one or more correspondence components.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A method as in claim 9 further comprising contacting the base material with release paper.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A method as in claim 7 wherein the one or more correspondence components have a substantially identical monomer or oligomer configuration relative to the one or more components of the base material.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A method as in claim 9 wherein the one or more correspondence components have a substantially identical monomer or oligomer configuration relative to the one or more components of the base material.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A method as in claim 9 wherein the one or more correspondence components include an epoxy resin that is substantially identical to an epoxy resin in the base material.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A method as in claim 7 further comprising applying the synthetic material to a member of the automotive vehicle by contacting the substantially non-tacky surface of the synthetic material such that the tacky surface of the synthetic material contacts the member of the automotive vehicle.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): A method as in claim 9 further comprising applying the synthetic material to a member of the automotive vehicle by contacting the substantially non-tacky surface of the synthetic material such that the tacky surface of the synthetic material contacts the member of the automotive vehicle.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): A method as in claim 33 further comprising activating the base material and film to cure at an elevated temperature during automotive processing.

Claim 35 (New): A method as in claim 1, wherein the film includes a filler, a curing agent, and a polymeric material selected from acetates, ethylenes, acrylates, or combinations thereof.

Claim 36 (New): A method as in claim 35, wherein the polymeric material includes a methacrylate, the filler includes a clay, or both.

Claim 37 (New): A method as in claim 35, wherein the epoxy-elastomer adduct is ranges from about 5% to about 25% by weight of the film.

Claim 38 (New): A method as in claim 37, wherein the epoxy-elastomer adduct ranges from about 12% to about 18% by weight of the film.

Claim 39 (New): A method as in claim 35, wherein the epoxy-elastomer adduct includes about 1:5 to about 5:1 parts of epoxy to elastomer.

Claim 40 (New): A method as in claim 1, wherein the epoxy resin of the film includes a liquid epoxy resin and a solid epoxy resin.

Claim 41 (New): A method as in claim 36, wherein the epoxy resin of the film includes a liquid epoxy resin and a solid epoxy resin.

Claim 42 (New): A method as in claim 37, wherein the epoxy resin of the film includes a liquid epoxy resin and a solid epoxy resin.

Claim 43 (New): A method as in claim 39, wherein the epoxy resin of the film includes a liquid epoxy resin and a solid epoxy resin.

Claim 44 (New): A method as in claim 35, wherein the base material includes a blowing agent.

Claim 45 (New): A method as in claim 1, wherein both the base material and the film are heat activated and expand.